

REMARKS

Claims 1-53 and 55-86 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 17 is amended.

~~An Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 was filed in the above-~~
captioned patent application on July 12, 2002. Applicants have not yet received from the Examiner a copy of the Form PTO-1449 initialed to acknowledge the fact that the Examiner has considered the disclosed information. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned if a copy of the July 12, 2002 Information Disclosure Statement is not present in the Patent Office file.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Donnelly during the November 13, 2002 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Office Action indicates that claims 1-16, 18, 19, 22-26, 28-52, 55-67 and 69-86 are either allowed or allowable if rewritten to recite all the features of the base claim and any intervening claim. For the reasons discussed below, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable.

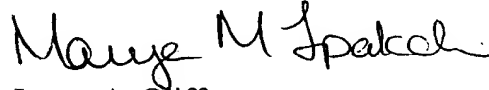
Claims 17, 20, 21, 27, 53 and 68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0841648 (hereinafter "EP '648"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed to during the personal interview, EP '648 fails to disclose all the features of claim 17, as amended, as well as all the features of claims 20, 21, 27, 53 and 68. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this application is in even better condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Maryam M. Ipakchi
Registration No. 51,835

JAO:MMI/ccs

Attachment:
Appendix

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claim:

17. (Amended) A vehicle drive assist system comprising:
- a camera for picking up an image of an area existing in an advancing direction of a vehicle;
 - display means for displaying the image picked up by the camera;
 - an obstacle sensor for detecting presence or absence of an obstructive object in a backward area of the vehicle;
 - drive assist means, when an obstructive object is detected by the obstacle sensor, informing a driver of presence of an obstructive object by ~~changing a display by the display means~~ displaying information in the form of a character telop on the image displayed on a display and changing a color of the entire display.